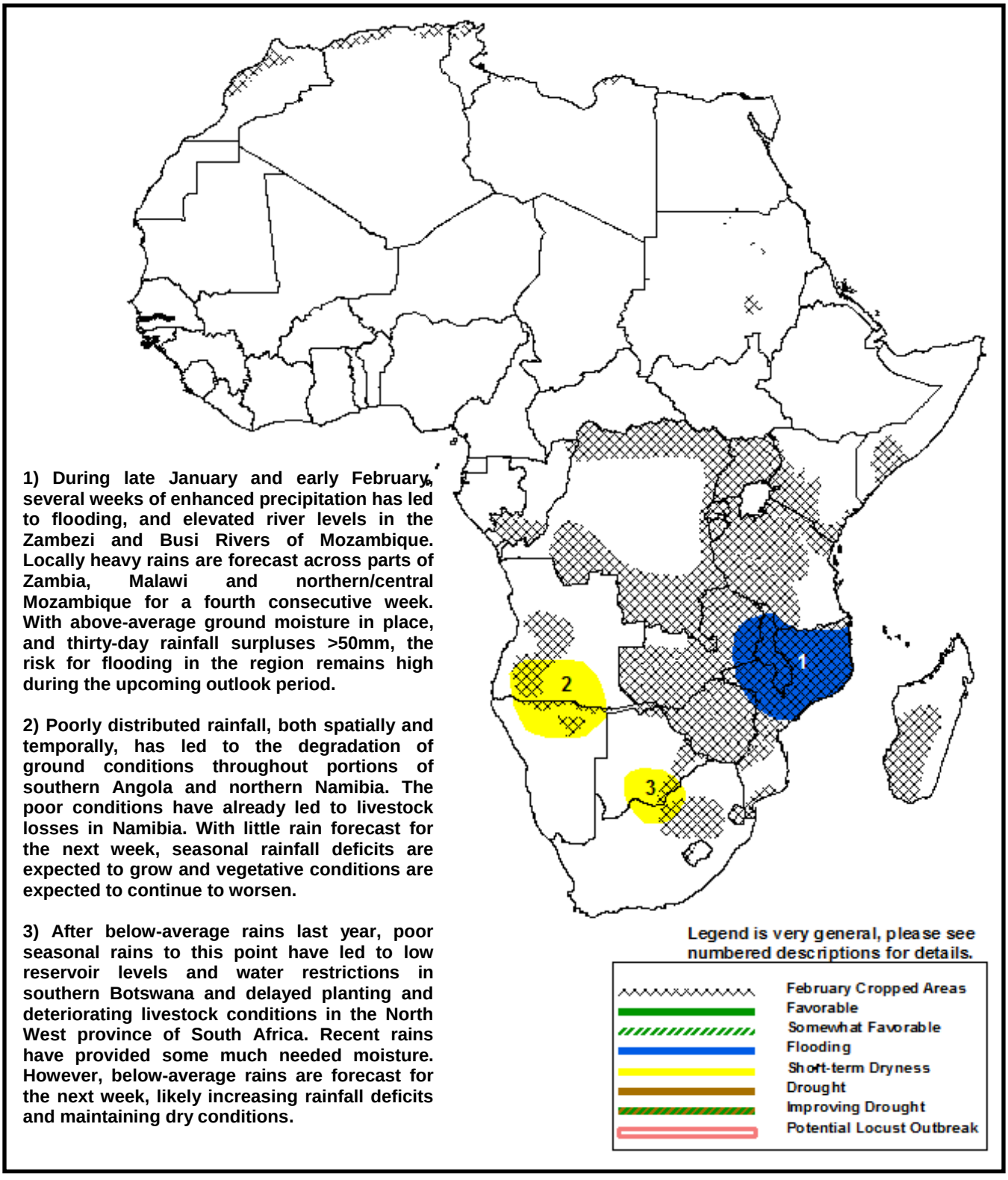
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
February 14 – February 20, 2013

- **Above-average weekly rains added on to already large seasonal rainfall surpluses in northern Mozambique.**
- **Below-average rains in Namibia, Angola, South Africa and Botswana have led to poor ground conditions.**



1) During late January and early February, several weeks of enhanced precipitation has led to flooding, and elevated river levels in the Zambezi and Busi Rivers of Mozambique. Locally heavy rains are forecast across parts of Zambia, Malawi and northern/central Mozambique for a fourth consecutive week. With above-average ground moisture in place, and thirty-day rainfall surpluses >50mm, the risk for flooding in the region remains high during the upcoming outlook period.

2) Poorly distributed rainfall, both spatially and temporally, has led to the degradation of ground conditions throughout portions of southern Angola and northern Namibia. The poor conditions have already led to livestock losses in Namibia. With little rain forecast for the next week, seasonal rainfall deficits are expected to grow and vegetative conditions are expected to continue to worsen.

3) After below-average rains last year, poor seasonal rains to this point have led to low reservoir levels and water restrictions in southern Botswana and delayed planting and deteriorating livestock conditions in the North West province of South Africa. Recent rains have provided some much needed moisture. However, below-average rains are forecast for the next week, likely increasing rainfall deficits and maintaining dry conditions.

Heavy rains continued in Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.

During the past seven days, rains were heavy (>50mm) across much of Madagascar, northern/central Mozambique, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, Zambia and central/eastern Angola. The third consecutive week of heavy rains in northern/central Mozambique has continued flooding concerns across the north of the country. Localized flooding during the past several weeks also has been reported in Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia. In eastern Angola, recent frequent heavy rains have improved ground conditions. However, poor rains (<20mm total) continued in much of southern Zambia, Namibia, and Botswana, which has led to deteriorating ground conditions. Rains also were light (<15mm) in southern Mozambique, which is still recovering from extensive flooding during the second dekad of January. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (10-50mm) was recorded in South Africa (**Figure 1**) with the rains in the North West province of South Africa providing relief from recently drier than average conditions.

Rainfall during much of 2013 has followed a similar pattern with above-average rains occurring in southeastern Africa stretching across Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia. Meanwhile, below-average rains have fallen farther west, north and south in Tanzania, Angola, Namibia, southwestern Botswana and central South Africa. This pattern is clearly seen in a spatial plot of 30-day rainfall anomalies. The torrential rains in Mozambique have caused anomalies greater than 200mm and widespread flooding, resulting in the displacement of nearly 170,000 people. In contrast, below-average rains in Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa have led to growing thirty-day rainfall deficits (50-150mm) (**Figure 2**), and reports of worsening ground conditions in southern Angola and northern Namibia and water restrictions, low reservoir levels and delayed planting around Gaborone in Botswana and the North West province of South Africa.

The result of poorly distributed rainfall, both spatially and temporally, across southern Angola, Namibia, southern Botswana and central South Africa has been worsening ground conditions, as evident in WRSI values for the 1st dekad of February. Poor WRSI values exist across portions of southern and western Botswana, and the North West province of South Africa, while mediocre values have begun to spread in parts of northern Namibia (**Figure 3**). A return of seasonably frequent rain is needed to halt worsening ground conditions.

For the next week, heavy (>50mm) and above-average rains are once again forecast across Madagascar, Zambia, central/northern Mozambique, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, and eastern Angola. The heavy rains in Mozambique, Malawi and eastern Zambia will continue to keep flooding risks elevated. In contrast, light rains (<20mm) are forecast for southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa, increasing seasonal rainfall deficits, and further depleting the ground of moisture.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 6th – February 12th, 2013

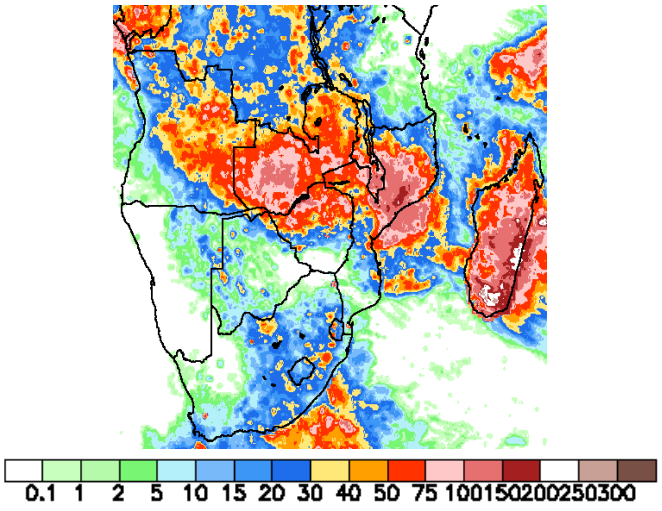


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 13th – February 11th, 2013

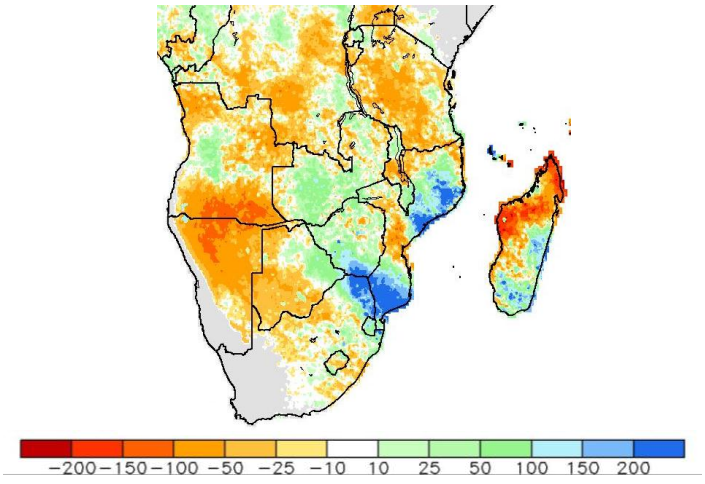


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI): Maize
Valid: As of the 1st dekad of February, 2013

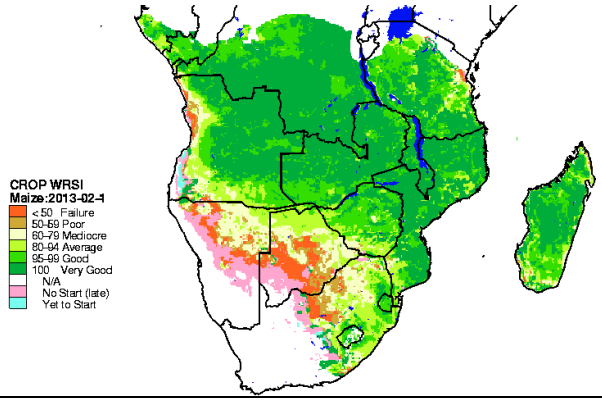


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.